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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, I presume we are on the next question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, we are on question No. 73. I asked the hon. Member Mr. Gopalan to put the question."

Cancellation of the elections to the Ezhome Panchayat, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar.

* 73 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Government passed a special order urgently stopping the panchayat board election in Ezhome village in Chirakkal taluk in North Malabar on 21st May 1954;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the order of the Government stopping the election was received by the Returning Officer after the election was over; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation against the Returning Officer for not announcing the results even after the election was over?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) On receipt of a representation on 20th May 1954 to the effect that the elections to the Ezhome Panchayat (newly constituted) fixed to take place on 21st May 1954 (Friday) might be postponed to some other day, so that the Muslims of the locality who formed the bulk of the voters might not be inconvenienced in observing their rituals on Friday during the fasting month of Ramzan, the Government issued telegraphic orders to the District Panchayat Officer, Malabar, cancelling the said elections.

" (*b*) The Election Officer of the panchayat reported that a telegram from the District Panchayat Officer, Malabar, conveying the orders of Government was received by him at 6-45 a.m. on 21st May 1954. He wired back to the District Panchayat Officer for confirmation and the District Panchayat Officer's reply reached the Election Officer after the election was over.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., has been received by the Government."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are Government aware that even though they wanted to postpone the elections for the reason that the Muslims could not take part in the elections, a large percentage of the Muslims themselves voted on that particular day? Is it a fact that the Government postponed the elections after receiving some deputation from some of the Congress leaders of that locality and particularly will the Hon. Minister be pleased to clarify, if, once an election is over, it is not the rule governing elections that the result of the election cannot be changed? I want a definite answer, Sir."

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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Sir, the Government did not cancel the elections. Sri K. Achuthan, the candidate, who is alleged to have come out successful in the election has filed a writ petition in the High Court for declaring him as the duly elected president at the election held on 21st May 1954 and for directing the Deputy Panchayat Officer to allow him (Sri Achuthan) to hold panchayat meetings. He has also asked for the issue of an interim injunction restraining the Deputy Panchayat Officer from holding any fresh elections to the Panchayat. The orders of the High Court on these petitions are awaited."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of order, Sir. It is very unfortunate that we, Members of the House—as far as I am concerned, I do not mind—are not in a position to understand what the Hon. Minister is saying in his reply."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am not responsible for it."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I request the Hon. Speaker to make some arrangements so that the replies are printed and given to us."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is an answer to a supplementary question. The answer will be printed and circulated to all hon. Members."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" இந்தத் தேர்தல் ரத்து செய்யப்படவில்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். அப்படியானால் தேர்தலுக்குமுன் ஹைக்கோர்ட்டில் ரிட் தாக்கல் செய்வதற்கான அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டது ஏன் ? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" இந்த எலக்ஷன் முடிவை வெளியிடுவதற்காக யோசனை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போதே, ரிட் பெடிஷன் ஹைக்கோர்ட்டில் தாக்கல் செய்யப்பட்டது. இந்தப் பெடிஷன் ஹைக்கோர்ட்டில் இருப்பதால் இதைப்பற்றி சட்டசபையில் விவாதிப்பது சரியான முறையல்ல. "

Allegations against the police at Quilandy, North Malabar.

* 74 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on the 23rd and 25th February 1954, the police of Quilandy, North Malabar, tortured and extorted money from the villagers of Moodadi, North Malabar;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any complaint about this; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Yes, Sir. The matter was enquired into and it was found that the allegations were baseless."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, when and by whom the enquiry was conducted and whether it was a private or a public enquiry? "